

Application No. 10/038,003

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, at line 8, with the following:

In ~~it's~~ its most basic form, the invention can be characterized, in one embodiment as a method of processing data, in data services, with a set of rate-compatible Turbo Codes optimized at high code rates and derived from a universal constituent code, the Turbo Codes having compatible puncturing patterns. The method comprises: encoding a signal at a first and second encoder using a best universal rate 1/2 constituent code with higher and lower code rates, the first encoder and the second encoder each producing a respective plurality of parity bits for a data bit; puncturing the respective plurality of parity bits at each encoder with a higher rate best puncturing pattern; and puncturing the respective plurality of parity bits at each encoder with a lower rate best puncturing pattern.